

**Big Horn County FSA Office**  
**724 West Third St.**  
**Hardin, MT 59034**

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**County Committee Members**

Merna A. Kincaid, Chairperson  
Alex Uffelman, Vice-Chairman  
Shawn D. Fredericks, Reg. Member  
Thomas R. Whiteman, Minority Adv.

**FSA Office Personnel**

Cindy Woody, Temp. PT  
Marie Weibert, PT  
Diane Schanaman, PT  
Gloria Menke, PT  
Katie Berkram, Acting CED  
Michael Turley, FLM  
Bill Ballard, FLM

**Dates to Remember:**

**May 15-July 15** – FSA State Committee established Primary Nesting Season for CRP

**May 15-August 1** – Primary Nesting Season for CRP contracts affected by the National Wildlife Federations settlement agreement with FSA

**June 2** – Final loan/LDP availability date for Corn, Dry peas, Grain sorghum, Lentils, Mustard seed, Safflower seed, Small chickpeas, Soybeans, and Sunflower seed harvested in 2007

**June 2** – Critical feed program signup

**June 15** – COC Nominations Open

**June 16** – Final day to provide maps for crop reporting purposes.

**Notice of Loss** – filed within 15 calendar days of the natural disaster occurrence or the date the damage to the crop or loss of production was apparent

**July 15** – deadline to provide 2007 production for NAP APH

**July 15** – 2007 NAP Application for Payment Deadline

**July 15** – Final day to sign acreage reports

**July 18** – LIP/LCP Deadline

**August 1** – Deadline for reconstitutions

**September 30 – October 1** – Women Stepping Forward for Agriculture Symposium, Billings



# Big Horn County

## June 2008

### LIP and LCP Signup Announced

The deadline date for the 2005-2007 Livestock Compensation Program (LCP) and Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) has been set for July 18, 2008.

LIP provides payments to eligible livestock owners and contract growers who incurred the death of livestock because of a natural disaster. LCP provides payments to eligible livestock owners and cash lessees who suffered feed losses or increased feed costs because of a natural disaster.

Signup began on September 10, 2007 for the two programs that provide aid to livestock producers who suffered eligible livestock or livestock feed losses between January 1, 2005 and December 30, 2007 because of a natural disaster.

### CDP Quantity Payments

Signup for the quantity (production loss) loss portion of the 2005/2007 Crop Disaster Program (CDP) began October 15, 2007 and continues. Although no ending signup date has been announced, we encourage all producers who have not yet signed up for CDP to do so as soon as possible. Payments will be delayed on all CDP production loss applications that are not approved and paid prior to receipt of the Quality loss software, which is expected to be issued around June 20, 2008. Signup dates for quality loss CDP applications will be announced in the near future.

### Conservation Compliance

Federal regulations discourage the production of crops on highly erodible cropland unless the land is protected from erosion by an approved conservation system. Status reviews are conducted to ensure producers follow a conservation plan on highly erodible land. In addition to the highly erodible land, a person may not plant an agricultural commodity on wetlands converted after December 23, 1985, or convert a wetland to make agricultural production possible after November 28, 1990. Failure to comply with these provisions will cause a person to be ineligible for USDA benefits. County Committees may review noncompliance situations for good faith and provide relief in approved cases.

**COC Election Approaching**

Beginning **June 15, 2008**, nominations are being accepted for candidates for County Committee (COC) positions.

A county or area served by the COC is divided into local administrative areas (LAA). Each LAA is represented by one member on the county committee. Only one LAA holds an election each year. This year the LAA open in Big Horn County is the area west of the Big & Little Big Horn Rivers. Merna A. Kincaid currently serves this area.

FSA-669A (02-25-08) Page 2		U.S. Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency		Form Approved - UMBI No. 0560-0229	
<b>NOMINATION FORM FOR COUNTY FSA COMMITTEE ELECTION</b>					
1. NAME OF NOMINEE (Type or print Nominee's Full Name)		<b>TO BE COMPLETED BY COUNTY FSA OFFICE</b>			
2. ADDRESS OF NOMINEE					
3. NOMINEE'S CERTIFICATION <i>I hereby agree to have my name placed on the ballot, that I will serve if elected, and if there is a conflict of interest, I will resign such position.</i>  <input type="checkbox"/> I DO want to witness the settling of tied votes with another nominee.  <input type="checkbox"/> I DO NOT want to witness the settling of tied votes with another nominee.		5. INITIALS OF EMPLOYEE RECEIVING FORM AND DATE (MM-DD-YYYY)			
		6A. COUNTY			
		6B. LAA NO.			
		7. STATE			
4A. SIGNATURE OF NOMINEE		4B. DATE (MM-DD-YYYY)		DATE OF ELECTION IS 1st MONDAY OF DECEMBER OF EACH CALENDAR YEAR	
<b>8. TO BE COMPLETED BY NOMINEE</b>					
<b>VOLUNTARY INFORMATION FOR MONITORING PURPOSES:</b> The following information is requested by the Federal Government in order to monitor FSA's compliance with federal laws prohibiting discrimination against program participants on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, marital status, handicapped condition, or age. You are not required to furnish this information, but are encouraged to do so. This information will not be used in evaluating your nomination or to discriminate against you in any way.					
<b>ETHNICITY</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic or Latino <input type="checkbox"/> Not Hispanic or Latino		<b>RACE (Choose as many boxes as applicable)</b> <input type="checkbox"/> America Indian or Alaska Native <input type="checkbox"/> Black or African-American <input type="checkbox"/> Asian <input type="checkbox"/> Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander <input type="checkbox"/> White		<b>GENDER</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female	
<b>INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING THIS FORM</b>					
Complete the form as follows:					
<b>ITEM 1</b> Type or Print the nominee's full name. The nominee must be: A. Eligible to vote in the designated County FSA Committee election. B. Eligible to hold the office of County FSA Committee member. C. Willing to serve if elected.					
<b>ITEM 2</b> Enter the nominee's current address.					
<b>ITEM 3</b> The nominee must check one of the boxes to indicate a preference regarding the settling of tied votes.					
<b>ITEM 4</b> The nominee must sign and date.					
<b>ITEM 8</b> Completing this item is voluntary.					
<b>ALL FORMS MUST BE RECEIVED IN THE COUNTY OFFICE OR POSTMARKED BY AUGUST 1.</b>					
<b>NOTE:</b> The following statement is made in accordance with the Privacy Act of 1974 (5 USC 552a) and the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, as amended. The authority for requesting the following information is 7 CFR Part 7. The information will be used to obtain nominees for County FSA Committee.					
According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, an agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 0560-0229. The time required to complete this information collection is estimated to average 10 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. RETURN THIS COMPLETED FORM TO YOUR COUNTY FSA OFFICE.					

### FSA Announces Critical Feed Program

FSA has announced the authorization of certain acreage enrolled under the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) to be available for haying and grazing after the **primary nesting season ends which is August 1<sup>st</sup> in Montana**. No rental payment reduction will be assessed on contracts being utilized for the critical feed use. However, a \$75 fee will be charged per contract to process the contract modification. The fee must be paid prior to the local FSA county committee approving the contract modification. The fee is not refundable.

Beginning June 2, 2008, eligible CRP participants may sign up for the critical feed use practice at their local FSA office. Participants must submit a modification to their conservation plan. This modification for critical feed use is only for 2008. All haying and grazing must be completed no later than November 10, 2008. The critical feed use practice may be used on CRP acreage that was hayed or grazed in 2007 either under the Managed Haying and Grazing provisions or the Emergency Haying or Grazing provisions.

CRP participants may use their CRP acreage for haying or grazing or may lease the privilege to any other individual. CRP participants may not hay and graze the same acreage. CRP participants must leave at least 50 percent of each field unhayed. Only one cutting of hay is permitted. CRP participants wishing to graze their CRP acreage must leave at least 25 percent of each field ungrazed for wildlife or graze all of the CRP acreage at no more than 75 percent of the stocking rate as determined by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) or a Technical Service Provider (TSP).

### Farm Loan Program

Office Hours in Big Horn:  
Michael Turley – Tuesday & Thursday  
10:00 am to 3:00 pm  
Bill Ballard – Wednesday  
9:00 am to 2:00 pm

### Filing a Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) Notice-of-Loss

To qualify for assistance under NAP, production losses or prevented planting must have occurred as a result of an eligible cause of loss. An eligible cause of loss is any of the following:

- damaging weather, such as drought, freeze, hail, excessive moisture, or excessive wind; or
- adverse natural occurrences, such as earthquake or flood; or
- a condition related to damaging weather or an adverse natural occurrence, such as excessive heat, disease or insect infestation.

A notice of loss must be provided **within 15 calendar days** after the:

- disaster occurrence or date damage to the specific crop acreage is apparent to the producer for yield losses;
- final planting date for prevented planting.

**NOTE:** When filing your acreage reports, if you have any prevented planting or failed crops you will also need to file a notice of loss.

### Changes to Your Farming Operation

To ensure a smooth transition when a new Farm Bill is passed, FSA is encouraging producers to notify us of any changes to your farming operation including land ownership or lease changes, entity changes including members, shares, or trusts and who is authorized to sign documents for the operation or individuals. It is anticipated there will be policy changes and new forms to complete when new programs are implemented. Details will be published in this newsletter as they are known.

#### **Proper Signature Authorization on File?**

FSA reviews every producer's eligibility file to determine who is authorized to sign program documents in representative capacities. In addition FSA reviews all program documents to determine if the signature format is proper. For a complete listing of FSA signature requirements, contact this office or logon to the Montana FSA website at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/mt> and click on the **Signature Authority Pamphlet** link under "In the News."

## **2007 Census of Agriculture**

It is not too late to turn in your Census of Agriculture form. USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) wants everyone who received a census form to return the form or call NASS toll free at 1-888-424-7828. Even if you are a landlord or have a few chickens or a horse, NASS wants to account for your form. Your information can be taken over the phone by calling the toll-free number.

For further information contact the Montana Ag Statistics Service at 1-800-835-2612.

## **CRP Participant Responsibilities**

CRP contract holders have certain responsibilities for carrying out the terms and conditions of the CRP contract. Those include, but are not limited to:

- ☐ Control all weeds, insects, pests and other undesirable species to the extent necessary to ensure the establishment and maintenance of the approved cover is adequately protected and there is no adverse impact on surrounding land.
- ☐ Establish and maintain the required vegetative or water cover and other required practices.
- ☐ No activity may be conducted on CRP acres without authorization.
- ☐ Prior approval must be received from FSA before any harvesting, grazing or other commercial use of the forage may begin.
- ☐ If land with a CRP contract is sold, the new owners should notify this office if they want to continue the contract.

**If CRP land is sold and the new owner does not choose to continue the CRP contract, the previous CRP participant will be required to repay all payments received on the contract, plus interest and liquidated damages.**

Liquidated damages are equal to 25 percent of the annual rental payment on those acres not contracted by the new owner.